

CARIBBEAN Newsletter

THE HUD SAN JUAN FIELD OFFICE

REGION IV
FY 2021



FEATURED STORY

~HUD'S MISSION~

HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. HUD is working to strengthen the housing market to bolster the economy and protect consumers; meet the need for quality affordable rental homes; utilize housing as a platform for improving quality of life; build inclusive and sustainable communities free from discrimination, and transform the way HUD does business.

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HUD SAN JUAN OFFICE HOSTS FOSTER YOUTH TO INDEPENDENCE WEBINAR

The San Juan Field Office held its first virtual Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) webinar. The Secretarial initiative counted 62 attendees and provided an overview to representatives from Public Housing Authorities, Continuums of Care providers, and Stakeholders from different organizations from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The FYI initiative provides Housing Choice Vouchers and Supportive Services to young adults between the ages of 18 to 24 that are exiting foster care.

Lanita Jones, HUD's Region IV point of contact for FYI, presented an overview of the program and recent changes. The HUD Alabama team and stakeholders shared their experience with the administration of the FYI voucher. They highlighted the importance of not only planning and communicating throughout the process of implementation, but also celebrating every voucher, since that is one less foster youth worrying about where he or she might sleep.



MESSAGE FROM THE SAN JUAN FIELD OFFICE DIRECTOR



Efrain Maldonado, Esq.
Field Office Director

Greetings from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, San Juan Field Office. The purpose of this mid-year issue of the Caribbean Newsletter is to embrace our community and government partners' accomplishments, offer our readers a centralized repository of the most recent and relevant resources available, and showcase how our local field office has promoted Secretarial initiatives and HUD programs.

Disaster recovery is embedded in our work as an agency and will continue to be in the long-term future. During this first half of the fiscal year, the limitations posed by the COVID-19 pandemic have sharpened our ability as a field office to serve our grantees and clients through remote mechanisms. With over 2,000 customer inquiries processed through our Customer Relations Management System during the current fiscal year, the San Juan Field Office ranks among the top 10 HUD field and regional offices across the Nation in customer service. The unprecedented amount of 170 million in funding made available to Puerto Rico and the U.S Virgin Islands to manage the pandemic's repercussions in HUD-subsidized housing and local communities has put to the test the ability and commitment of our local staff to adapt, step up, and serve. Upcoming funding under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and new agency initiatives will dictate to a great extent our priorities and concentrated efforts moving forward for the remainder of the fiscal year. Therefore, we call on all our local partners to rise once again and join us in helping our local communities recover and become more resilient.

The Department's timely response to the COVID-19 pandemic for Puerto Rico and USVI through the CARES Act can be found [here](#), and the housing provisions under the American Rescue Plan can be found [here](#).

We hope you enjoy this highlight review of our fiscal year thus far, and we look forward to continuing working with you.

HUD San Juan Office of Community Planning and Development is Hiring!

Community Planning and Development Representative

Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development

Department of Housing and Urban Development

San Juan, Puerto Rico

Community Planning and Development Representative – Open to the public

Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development

Department of Housing and Urban Development

San Juan, Puerto Rico

For more information, please visit [USAJOBS](#).

HUD Report on Youth Homelessness Underscores Importance of American Rescue Plan

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released a report on coordinated community approaches to preventing and ending youth homelessness. The report, [*"Evaluation of the HUD Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program: Early Implementation Report."*](#) underscores the importance of the American Rescue Plan to addressing homelessness, including for youth.

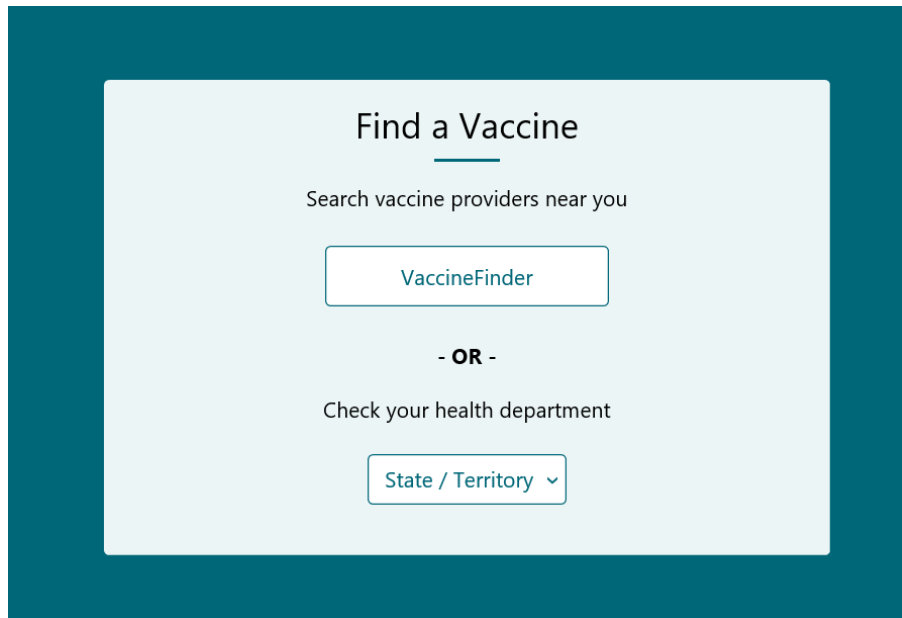
The report found that funding awarded by HUD to 10 Continuums of Care (CoCs) – state and local planning agencies that coordinate their area's response to homelessness – enabled communities across the country to increase access to housing for youth experiencing homelessness through a variety of approaches, more directly integrating youth into systems with resources like rapid re-housing and programs using evidence-based models like Housing First.

"This report shows that when communities have dedicated funds, they are able to more effectively and aggressively expand efforts to deliver relief to youth and young adults experiencing homelessness," said Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Marcia L. Fudge. "Thanks to the American Rescue Plan, communities will have access to billions in additional funds to further scale up initiatives to prevent and end homelessness, including for youth, and to put Housing First."

Access to permanent housing through rapid re-housing tools is the cornerstone of the evidence-based Housing First approach to ending homelessness – an approach reflected in the recently-enacted American Rescue Plan. The ARP, signed into law on March 11 by President Biden, provides \$5 billion for the [*HOME Investment Partnerships Program*](#) to help create housing and services for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness in communities across the country. The American Rescue Plan will also allow the communities highlighted in the Early Implementation Report to fully implement their sustainable infrastructure plans for serving youth experiencing homelessness. **For more information, visit [HUD Stories](#)**

Vaccines for COVID-19

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website offers a search engine to look for a vaccine provider near you. Please click [here](#) for more information.



Marcia Fudge Sworn in As Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

On March 10th, the U.S. Senate confirms Congresswoman Marcia L. Fudge of Ohio as our nation's 18th Secretary of Housing & Urban Development. "A good home shapes nearly every part of our lives. It is where we start and end each day. It is where we raise our families and come together in times of joy," she said in her first remarks as Secretary. "It's where we find shelter and comfort during times of hardship. I am proud to join a group of public servants who work with compassion and determination to change the lives of those in need. And I can't wait to get started."

As Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Fudge now leads a federal department with wide reach throughout the United States, including the Offices of Housing, Community Planning and Development, Federal Housing Administration, Public and Indian Housing, Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, Policy Development and Research, Field Policy and Management, Government National Mortgage Association (Ginnie Mae), Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes, and Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. Below find video remarks delivered by Secretary Fudge.



You may watch the remarks [here](#).

INTRODUCING THE FIND SHELTER TOOL TO HELP COMMUNITY MEMBERS LOCATE SERVICE PROVIDERS AND LOCAL RESOURCES

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Find Shelter tool provides information about housing, shelter, health care, and clothing resources in communities across the country. Click on one of the categories, enter your location, and click Search to get started.



For More Information, please visit, <https://www.hud.gov/findshelter>

If you are at risk of being homeless or in need of transitional housing, HUD partners may be able to work with you on a long-term plan and connect you with resources for success. To search for a Continuum of Care resource provider to get started, click on the following [link](#).

PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR THE OFFICE OF HOUSING - FEDERAL HOUSING ADMINISTRATION OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT



Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Housing: Lopa Kolluri

Lopa P. Kolluri serves as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Housing and the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In this role, Ms. Kolluri is the senior leader responsible for the Office's policies, programs, and operations supporting homebuyers, homeowners, multifamily residents, and housing counselors. Kolluri is also responsible for the Office's oversight of manufactured housing and FHA's Single Family, Multifamily, and Healthcare mortgage insurance programs.

With over 25 years of experience in affordable housing and community and economic development in both the public and private sectors, Kolluri served from 2011 to 2013 as Deputy Chief of Staff to HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan. Prior to rejoining HUD in February 2021, Kolluri was the Chief Development and Operating Officer for the Philadelphia Housing Authority, the nation's fourth largest public housing authority serving nearly 80,000 public housing residents. For more information click [here](#).

First National Approved Municipality for the HUD Distressed Cities Technical Assistance Program

The Municipality of Coamo, Puerto Rico, is the first Unit of General Local Government (UGLG) approved under the new HUD Distressed Cities Technical Assistance (DCTA) program. The first step after the request was received at the San Juan Field Office was to engage in a Capacity Needs Assessment (CNA) by the Technical Assistance (TA) provider, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC). The purpose of the CNA report was to identify the financial baseline of the Municipality of Coamo, understand the needs identified in the DCTA request, and assess the community and local government's capacity to engage in this TA effort. After the Field Office and HUD DCTA team evaluated the CNA and met on several occasions with the Municipality leadership and staff, the direct TA approved involves 605 hours.

The focus areas approved for assistance are **housing and economic development, financial management, partnership building, and investment attraction**. The TA provider will consult and direct the municipality's needs and deploy resources to enhance capacity in the focus areas approved. For the Fiscal Management and Fiscal Health portion, some of the approved TA activities are conducting a more in-depth financial analysis and developing a long-term 10-year fiscal sustainability plan and updating and unifying financial management and procurement policies and procedures across all programs to comply with 2 C.F.R. § 200. For the Housing and Economic Development priorities, the TA will revolve on strategies to increase cultural tourism best practices, small business, microenterprise loans, and grant programs. The TA's proposed period is 12 months with high and medium ranked priorities and is expected to conclude on December 2021 with proven and measurable results monitored by the HUD DCTA team and the local POC for all Puerto Rico engagements, FPM Program Analyst Charlene Rodríguez.

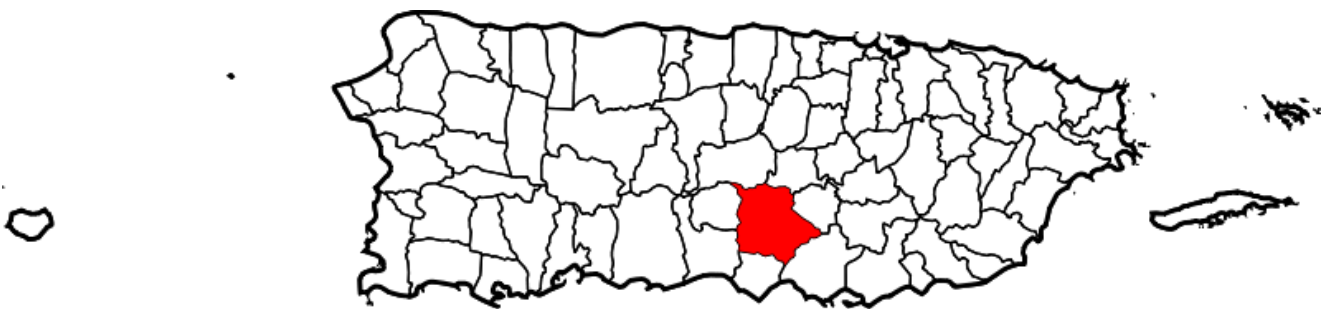


Photo Description: Map of Puerto Rico highlighting the FIRST national approved municipality under the HUD Distressed Cities Technical Assistance program.

For More information, please visit the webpage that is updated regularly, <https://www.hudexchange.info/news/dcta-progam/>.
You may find COVID-19 Resources and Guides [here](#).

HUD Southeast Region IV's Section 3 Training for Businesses and Residents of HUD subsidized properties

On March 23, 2021 HUD Southeast Region IV held a Section 3 Training for Businesses and Residents of HUD subsidized properties. The Section 3 program requires that recipients of certain HUD funding—to the greatest extent feasible—provide training, employment, contracting, and other opportunities to low- and very low-income persons, especially residents of HUD-assisted housing and to businesses that provide economic opportunities to low and very low-income persons. The session highlighted a best practice with a HUD grantee, Mississippi Development Authority, and their outreach to secure businesses to fulfill this requirement. To watch the event recording please visit the attendee link or [click here](#).

Are you a section 3 qualifying business owner? [Check here!](#) Afterwards you may register your business [here](#).

More information on Section 3: <https://www.hud.gov/section3>

The Point of Contact for Section 3 at the HUD San Juan field office is Program Analyst Adriana Grau, you may contact Ms. Grau at: Adriana.M.GrauMargarida@hud.gov. For more information about the San Juan office, you may visit the following link at: [Puerto Rico & U.S. Virgin Islands](#).

HUD Region IV Virtual Homelessness Conference



The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, other federal agencies, State and local government organizations, housing authorities, property owners, landlords, and non-profit organizations held a virtual conference to discuss efforts on addressing homelessness, share best practices and resources, and work together to meet community needs. The day's program consisted of panel discussions followed by questions and answers, all focused on HUD's Foster Youth to Independence Initiative, HUD-VASH utilization, and homelessness solutions for metropolitan and rural areas.

Efrain Maldonado, Field Office Director for the San Juan HUD Office, gave welcoming remarks and talked about Puerto Rico (PR) and U.S. Virgin Island challenges and how this event serves as a learning opportunity to replicate what works and develop best practices. Local attendance included Public Housing Authorities,

such as the Virgin Islands Housing Authority, Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority, PR Department of Housing, local state staff from rural municipalities and Continuum of Care providers, including directors from 502 and 503. The PR Veterans Attorney advocate also joined the conference and other stakeholders for a total of 69 attendees.

View the recorded event on Microsoft Teams at [HUD Region IV Virtual Homelessness Conference](#).

Disaster Recovery: Direct Buyer Assistance Program

The Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDoH) announced the first cases of the Homebuyer Assistance Program (HBA). The HBA is a program under the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery funds (CDBG-DR), that supports qualified, income-eligible first-time homebuyers with financial assistance to be used for the down payment and eligible closing costs of a new home. The property purchased through this program must be located in Puerto Rico.

For additional program information and details on income limits, individuals can access [https:// cdbg-dr.pr.gov / direct-buyer-assistance-program](https://cdbg-dr.pr.gov/direct-buyer-assistance-program) or write to the email HBA-info@afv.pr.gov.

People with accessibility problems or who require more information about CDBG-DR programs can contact the PRDoH Call Center at 1-833-234-2324; write to the email infoCDBG@vivienda.pr.gov; visit the website <http://www.cdbg-dr.pr.gov/> or send correspondence to the postal address PO Box 21365 San Juan PR 00928-1365.

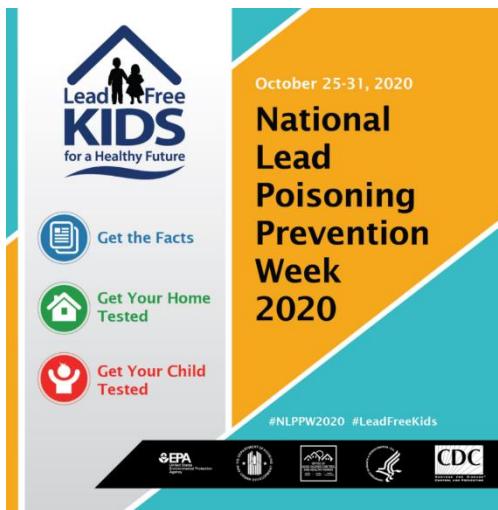


Nurse Dalimar Torres holding the grant of \$ 35,000 to buy her first home in Vega Baja, PR. The second case was signed in the city of Aguada, PR.

Lead Hazard and Housing Discrimination Law Overview

As part of HUD's National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2020 campaign, the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, Region 2, collaborated with the San Juan Field Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes to provide a webinar on the relationship between lead hazard and housing discrimination. The overview covered fair housing laws with a special focus on the detrimental impact that lead hazards have on the disabled and families with children. Case scenarios involving environmental justice, lead hazards, and fair housing rights were discussed along with HUD's complaint process. Over 250 attendees participated in the webinar. Attendees included grantees and employees of HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control, the EPA and CDC, Public Housing Authorities, health care providers and healthy homes educators. The webinar can be accessed by visiting the following link: <https://missouri.app.box.com/s/3pqi2qffoehscfcmwmpgagih4p98bxs1/file/735588944436>

NATIONAL LEAD POISONING PREVENTION WEEK



Despite our important focus on COVID-19, lead safety in the home remains a high priority. The HUD San Juan Field Office joined the HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and additional partners in highlighting this issue during the National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (NLPPW) 2020. NLPPW is a call to action to bring together families, individuals, community-based organizations, State and local governments, and others to increase lead poisoning prevention awareness and increase efforts to reduce childhood exposure to lead.

To celebrate the week, two virtual events were held in Spanish on October 27th and 29th, 2020. Invited panelists included the CDC, EPA, Puerto Rico Department of Health, and the Puerto Rico Public Housing Administration. The events were possible with the cross-program collaboration of all HUD programs, including Public and Indian Housing and Multifamily Housing.

Lead can be found in many things, but the main hazard to young children is lead paint hazards in homes built before 1978. Adults and children can become lead poisoned, but children experience more significant harm due to their developing bodies and brains. For additional information, please visit: OLHCHH's [webpage](#).

Managing Pediatric Asthma

Asthma is a severe, sometimes life-threatening chronic respiratory disease that affects the quality of life for more than 24 million Americans, including an estimated 6 million children. Although there is no cure for asthma yet, asthma can be controlled through medical treatment and management of environmental triggers.

The holiday season can be challenging for children with allergies or asthma. Cooler weather, natural trees, and fragrances could exacerbate their symptoms. That is why the HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes joined the Puerto Rico Department of Health's Asthma Program and the Virgin Islands Department of Health to increase awareness on how to identify and manage these and other potential risks.

The San Juan Office held two webinars with experts on this topic. The first webinar was delivered in English, focusing on the U.S. Virgin Islands, while the second webinar was in Spanish for the Puerto Rico community. Both events were live streamed through the Puerto Rico Asthma Program's Facebook page: [English](#) [Spanish](#). For additional information, please visit: OLHCHH's [webpage](#).

FHA Provides Borrowers Additional Time for Forbearance Plans

The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) announced it will execute the Biden Administration's request to extend the deadline for borrowers with FHA-insured mortgages who are struggling financially due to COVID-19 to request and receive mortgage payment forbearance from their mortgage servicer. **The new deadline is June 30, 2021**, allowing borrowers additional time to request and obtain up to six months of an initial pause in their mortgage payments.

FHA requires mortgage servicers to provide up to six months of COVID-19 forbearance when a borrower requests this assistance, and up to an additional six months of COVID-19 forbearance for borrowers who request an extension of the initial forbearance. Borrowers needing assistance must engage with their servicer – the entity to which they make their mortgage payments – to obtain an initial COVID-19 forbearance on or before June 30, 2021.

The forbearance request extension aligns with FHA's recent extension of its foreclosure and eviction moratoria for single family homeowners with FHA-insured mortgages, also extended through June 30, 2021. The extension of the moratoria on foreclosures and evictions was announced on January 21, 2021 and implemented President Biden's January 20 "Day One" request for this action. Both measures are vital first steps to provide urgent relief to safeguard those struggling with financial and home uncertainty.

FHA encourages borrowers with FHA-insured mortgages who can make their mortgage payments to continue to do so.

Borrowers seeking additional information on available options should click [here](#) to visit FHA's COVID-19 Resources for Home-owners web page on FHA.gov.

Other borrowers are encouraged to visit the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Coronavirus Mortgage and Housing Assistance web pages by clicking [here](#).

The Multifamily COVID-19 Resources page can be found by clicking [here](#).

April is National Fair Housing Month!

This year, we celebrate the 53rd anniversary of the Fair Housing Act. This landmark law was signed into law on April 11, 1968, by President Lyndon B. Johnson. The Fair Housing Act prohibits housing discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, and family status. The Act furthers the beliefs advocated by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the other heroes of the Civil Rights Movement. For more information about your fair housing rights, ***visit our webpage.***

DOWNLOAD THE FAIR HOUSING MONTH [POSTER](#)

For more fair housing educational resources, visit [FHEO's Outreach Tools Page](#). You can also download the new [Fair Housing virtual background](#) for Teams meetings.

For a variety of translated documents please visit:

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/fair_housing_equal_opp/17lep

Meet the San Juan Field Office New Single-Family Staff

The San Juan Field Office is pleased to announce that **Edwin Carreras** and **Erick Teruel** joined the San Juan Field Office as Single-Family Housing Specialists. Both oversee serving as the San Juan Field Office's Point of Contacts for all Single-Family matters. They work with non-profit organizations who wish to participate in FHA's Single-Family Nonprofit Program; perform inspections of Real Estate Owned inventory; communicate departmental policies and regulations to housing industry groups; participate in Departmental liaison activities and provide overall technical support and customer service to HUD's internal and external clients. Let us get to know more about Edwin and Erick.



Mr. Carreras shared, "I always wanted to work at HUD, and now that I am here, I can say that the most impressive part of working at the Department is its people, diversity, inclusion and their will to serve others." When asked, "What has been the biggest surprise about working for HUD?" He stated, "The Agency's portfolio of different programs which are designed to help many more people than I initially thought." When asked, "Why I Serve?" Edwin responded, "In the past, as a police officer, as a soldier, as a lawyer, and now as a federal employee, I serve because I want to make a difference, and I want to help my Nation once more. I believe in God, Country, and Family. If you want to be part of our Nation's history, you will need strength and virtue to serve others. That is the real meaning of being in the public service."



Mr. Teruel shared, "I always wanted to join HUD because of its fundamental mission of providing housing opportunities to American families. What could more important than families providing a home to their loved ones? That not only encouraged me to join HUD, but it also keeps me focused and determined every day." When asked, "Why I Serve?" Erick responded, "The government has the responsibility of creating opportunities and providing for the safety and wellbeing of its citizens. We, as employees, are the guardians and enablers so that those objectives are met with honesty and commitment. I serve because I like the thought that people will have better opportunities and interests better protected because of what we do. That is my reason to serve."

COVID-19 Relief Efforts from Local Non-Profits

What do you do with mountains and mountains of boxes filled with cotton face masks donated from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)? That question was easily answered by two Puerto Rico non-profit agencies, the Fundación Unidos Para Servir (FUPSER, based in Manatí) and Corporación para el Desarrollo Económico de Trujillo Alto (CDETA, based in Trujillo Alto) who were able to receive large shipments of face masks thanks to outreach efforts from the San Juan Field Office and distribute them in their communities. This work is just a small part of what these two agencies have done throughout this last year as part of their COVID relief efforts. Both organizations take advantage of these resources and other donations like medical supplies, fresh produce, and hot meals to make an impact for families.




FUPSER volunteers handing out face masks in a community drive-through and distributing boxes of fresh produce that they purchase from a local farmer. They also serve local health clinics, ambulances, and even families with medical supplies that are so necessary in these pandemic times.

CDETA volunteers handing out face masks in a vaccination clinic carried out in the Aires del Manantial Elderly Housing, a multifamily building they developed. They frequently carry out educational sessions in other housing projects and community centers to help stop the spread of COVID-19.



Upcoming Events



PROGRAMA DE MANEJO Y CONTROL DEL ASMA
DEPARTAMENTO DE SALUD

Save THE DATE

PUERTO RICO 2021 Virtual ASTHMA SUMMIT SERIES

Due to COVID-19 concerns, this event will be virtual.

April 27, 2021: Indoor Air Quality Connection to Asthma
May 4, 2021: World Asthma Awareness Day
May 11, 2021: The Road Ahead - Ensuring Healthy and Safe Communities

Asthma is a chronic lung condition that restricts breathing. It leads to chest tightness, wheezing, and coughing. It has no cure, but can be managed with proper medication, self-management education, and the elimination or reduction of the asthma triggers from the environment at home and school.

Over 128,664 children in Puerto Rico have asthma. Regions with most cases are: Arecibo, Aguadilla - Mayagüez

Community-based preventive services can improve asthma outcomes and reduce health care costs. Improved asthma control means fewer health care emergencies, fewer symptoms days and limitations, and fewer missed school and workdays

Learn from experts about:

- In-home asthma care and interventions
- Post-disaster Indoor Air Quality in homes
- Potential funding options
- The importance of Community Collaboration
- Updated Asthma Management Guidelines

REGISTER NOW!

<http://www.hud.gov/emarc/index.cfm?fuseaction=emar.registerEvent&eventId=4028&update=N>

For more information, please contact: asthmasummit2021pr@gmail.com

2021 PUERTO RICO VIRTUAL ASTHMA SUMMIT SERIES

Event Duration

April 27, 2021 12:30 PM to May 11, 2021 5:00 PM

Registration Link

<https://apps.hud.gov/emarc/index.cfm?fuseaction=emar.registerEvent&eventId=4028&update=N>



HUD Response to COVID-19

Messages and Information

- [American Rescue Plan Act of 2021](#)
- [CARES ACT](#)
- [HUD Secretary Fudge Remarks at White House Press Briefing on American Rescue Plan and Housing](#)
- [HUD's COVID-19 Emergency Information for Housing Counselors](#)
- [COVID-19 Resource Digest for Homeless Providers](#)
- [HOME Investment Partnerships Program Allocations to 651 grantees](#)

Click on the links for more COVID-19 Resources and Fact Sheets

- [HUD Exchange Updates](#)
- [HUD COVID-19 Information and Resources](#)
- [The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
- [To stay up to date on new CDC developments, sign up for the COVID-19 newsletter](#)
- [FEMA Major and Emergency Disaster Declarations](#)
- [Distressed Cities Technical Assistance Program Resources](#)
- [Puerto Rico Department of Health](#)
- [USVI Department of Health](#)
- [Puerto Rico Public Health Trust](#)
- [SBA COVID-19 Relief Options](#)
- [USA GOV](#)
- [How Can I Get Help from HUD Now](#)

TEMPORARY HALT IN RESIDENTIAL EVICTIONS TO PREVENT THE FURTHER SPREAD OF COVID-19

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention Director, Dr. Rochelle Walensky signed a declaration determining that the evictions of tenants could be detrimental to public health control measures to slow the spread of SARS-Cov-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. For more information, please click [here](#).

CDC Toolkits:

- [For Community-Based Organizations](#)
- [For Long-Term Care Facilities](#)
- [Essential Workers COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit](#)
- [Healthcare Providers](#)
- [Businesses & Workplaces](#)

Puerto Rico's First Alternate Care Site for Homeless Individuals Positive to COVID-19

Located in the eastern town of Humacao, the alternate care facility offers care to COVID-19 asymptomatic or mildly to moderately symptomatic patients that do not require extensive nursing care or assistance with daily activities. Operated by GuaraBi, a Continuum of Care organization, it also offers services to homeless persons being monitored for quarantine or isolation. The GuaraBi/Yocahu program can house 10 patients individually and is scalable to increase capacity. A key component of their approach is a robust network of communication and coordination to ensure smooth transfer of patients within a community for delivery of care. Their case management and rehousing team also ensures patients will have the resources they need when they leave the program, including housing and supportive services. The initiative is a collaboration between the Puerto Rico Department of Health, the Puerto Rico Mental Health and Addiction Services Administration, and GuaraBi. The alternate care facility is funded by the P.R. Department of Health with Coronavirus Relief Funds.



Photo: Administrator of the Puerto Rico Mental Health and Addiction Services Administration and stakeholders during the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the facility.

Upcoming Funding Opportunities

HUD awards discretionary funding through over 20 Grant programs that support HUD initiatives, including Affordable Housing Development and Preservation, Community and Economic Development, Environment and Energy, Fair Housing, Homelessness, Homeownership, Rental Assistance, and Supportive Housing and Services. HUD funding opportunities can be found at: [2021 NOFAs](#)

Opportunity Number	Opportunity Title	Agency	Posted Date	Close Date
CPD-2021-01	Continuum of Care Notice	HUD	01/29/2021	12/31/2021
FR-6400-N-52	FY 2020 Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly Program	HUD	01/11/2021	05/26/2021
FR-6400-N-68	Housing-related Hazards Capital Fund Program	HUD	03/24/2021	05/25/2021
FR-6400-N-69	Older Adults Home Modification Grant Program	HUD	03/02/2021	05/04/2021

[Eligibility Requirements for Applicants of HUD's Grants Programs](#)

[General Administration Requirements and Terms for HUD Financial Assistance Awards](#)

Additional federal grant information is available at www.grants.gov

Photo Gallery: Important Accomplishments



Photo Description: Vaccinations against COVID-19 for the homeless population started on March 2021 through the hard work and coordination of Puerto Rico Continuums of Care (CoC) providers, the Municipality of Ponce, and the Puerto Rico Government agencies, such as the PR Department of Health and ASSMCA. Our CoC grantee in Ponce, Cristo Pobre, became the first vaccination clinic for the homeless population. It has already administered 120 + doses of the vaccine.

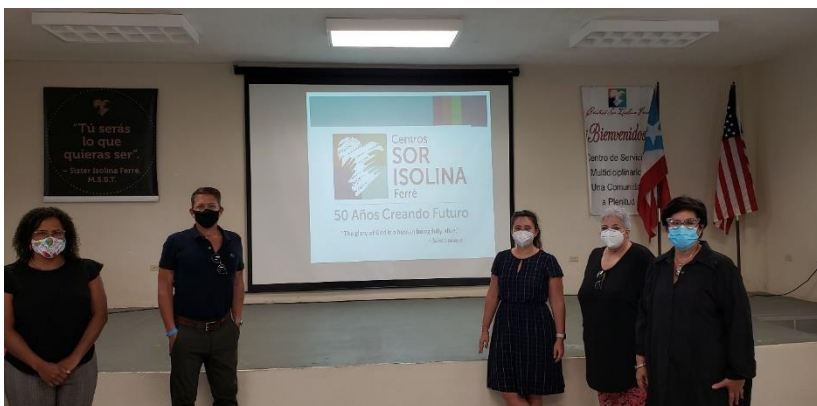


Photo Description: Sor Isolina Ferrer Community Center, Royal Family Kids non-profit, and HUD staff met to exchange information about the Foster Youth Initiative and work on future collaboration exchange with The Puerto Rico Department of Family.

Announcements and Grants

► **FEMA to Help Pay Funeral Costs for COVID-19-Related Deaths:** FEMA will begin providing financial assistance for funeral expenses incurred **after January 20, 2020** for deaths related to coronavirus (COVID-19) to help ease some of the financial stress and burden caused by the pandemic. FEMA is now moving rapidly to implement this funeral assistance program nationwide. To determine eligibility for COVID-19 funeral assistance, [read the policy here](#). More information regarding this assistance can be found at [COVID-19 Funeral Assistance | FEMA.gov](#).

► **New CDC Funding for COVID-19 Targets Underserved Communities:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced [a non-competitive grant program](#), "National Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities Among Populations at High-Risk and Underserved, Including Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations and Rural Communities." The program provides funding to improve testing capabilities and other COVID-19 response purposes. Grants will go to state, local, US territorial and freely associated state health departments. **Award date: June 1, 2021**

► **The Southeast Caribbean Regional Report:** The Q4 2020 PD&R Regional Report has been posted to HUDUSER. This report is prepared quarterly and can be found here: <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/periodicals/USHMC/reg//SoutheastCaribbean-RR-4Q20.pdf>.

► **Section 3 New Rule:** This new rule updates HUD's Section 3 regulations to create more effective incentives for employers to retain and invest in their low- and very low-income workers, streamline reporting requirements by aligning them with typical business practices, provide for program-specific oversight, and clarify the obligations of entities that are covered by Section 3. These new regulations went into effect on November 30, 2020 and compliance with the new rules will be required starting **on July 1, 2021** at the earliest. The new rule can be found at the following [link](#).

► **FEMA Awards \$4.1 Million to Create the EcoExploratorio Resiliency Institute:** To support efforts on the island aimed at raising awareness of the importance of hazard mitigation, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) awarded a \$4.1 million grant to the Eco-Exploratorio Resiliency Institute (ERI). This unique center in Puerto Rico will provide guidance on resilience and other mitigation topics to the public. The funds are provided by FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. For more information click [here](#).

► **Rental/Eviction Information:** HUD's office of Public Housing has [put together resources](#) for HUD Stakeholders to help guide their eviction decisions in response to COVID-19.

► **HUD Allocates Nearly \$700 Million for Affordable Housing:** Historic allocation through Housing Trust Fund will help states produce more affordable housing for extremely low- and very low-income households. [Press Release](#). [See here for list of state allocations](#).

► **Treasury: Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP):** The Emergency Rental Assistance program makes available \$25 billion to assist households that are unable to pay rent and utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds are provided directly to States, U.S. Territories, local governments, and Indian tribes. Grantees use the funds to aid eligible households through existing or newly created rental assistance programs. Treasury issued revised [FAQs](#) for the program on February 22nd.

PR & USVI HUD PRESS

March 25, 2021

[HUD and SBA team up to train Southeast and Caribbean workers and entrepreneurs](#)

March 18, 2021

[Homelessness Decreasing in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands Prior to COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

February 25, 2021

[HUD Awards the U.S. Virgin Islands \\$3 Million in Grants to Local Communities for Affordable Housing and to Serve Individuals and Families](#)

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